



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Ali Emam Bakhsh, et al.
Serial No. : 09/963,618
Filed : September 26, 2001
For : INFLATABLE SIDE CURTAIN
Examiner : David R. Dunn
Group Art Unit : 3616
Attorney Docket No. : TRW(AP)5810

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

DECLARATION UNDER 37 CFR §1.132

Sir:

We, the undersigned, declare as follows:

1. We are co-inventors, along with Russel E. Stein, of the invention entitled "INFLATABLE SIDE CURTAIN," disclosed and claimed in U.S. Application Serial No. 09/963,618 (hereinafter referred to as "the application"), which was filed on September 26, 2001.

2. We have tested the performance of inflatable side curtains having various fold and roll configurations in order to determine how the curtain performs in a situation where an occupant's head is positioned against a side window of the

vehicle when the curtain deploys, hereinafter referred to as a "head on glass scenario."

3. The tests are shown on video in order to preserve a record of how the curtains with the various roll and fold configurations performed in the head on glass scenario. Digital copies of the videos are provided on the CD-ROM labeled "Curtain Deployment Tests," which is included with this Declaration.

4. For each test, great care was exercised so as to ensure that the only difference between the various tests was the roll and/or fold configuration of the inflatable curtain. For each test, the vehicle structure, inflator, fill tube, and inflatable curtain were the same. Also, for each test, the occupant dummy was placed in the same position.

5. On the Curtain Deployment Test CD-ROM, the file entitled "Curtain Deployment Test - Outboard Roll Only" is an AVI video file that illustrates the inflatable curtain disclosed in the application in the head on glass scenario. The inflatable curtain is rolled up in an outboard direction and is free from inboard rolls and inboard folds. As clearly shown, the curtain of the present invention moves the occupant's head away from the side window and inflates between the occupant's head and the side structure.

6. On the Curtain Deployment Test CD-ROM, the files entitled "Curtain Deployment Test 04-07-0171-01 Outboard Roll with Inboard Fold" and "Curtain Deployment Test 04-07-0171-02 Outboard Roll with Inboard Fold" are AVI video files that illustrate the curtain rolled in an outboard direction and having an inboard fold adjacent the upper edge of the curtain. This is the roll/fold configuration disclosed in Hoeft et al. (US 2002/0158450 A1). The curtains are deployed in the head on glass scenario. In both tests, the curtains with the outboard roll and inboard fold fail to move the occupant's head away from the side window and fail to inflate between the occupant's head and the side structure.


7. On the Curtain Deployment Test CD-ROM, the file entitled "Curtain Deployment Test 04-07-0171-03 Zigzag fold" is an AVI video file that illustrates the curtain folded in a zigzag pattern, i.e., in a back-and-forth or fan fold manner. This is the fold configuration disclosed in Nakajima et al. (US 6,334,626 B2), Kato et al. (6,082,761), and White, Jr. et al. (6,179,324 B1). The curtain is deployed in the head on glass scenario. In the test, the curtain with the zigzag fold fails to move the occupant's head away from the side window and fails to inflate between the occupant's head and the side structure.

8. We declare that all statements made herein of our own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further

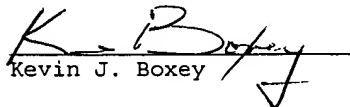
that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under §1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.


Ali Emam Bakhsh

8/2/2004
Date


Ayad G. Nayef

8/2/2004
Date

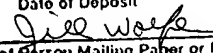

Kevin J. Boxey

8/3/2004
Date

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8-4-04
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Signature of Person Mailing Paper or Fee

JILL WOLFE
Name of Person Signing

August 4, 2004
Date of Signature